

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 2, and 4-20 are pending. Claim 3 has been cancelled. No new matter has been added.

An objection to the Abstract was raised. In response, the Abstract has been replaced.

Claims 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second paragraph.

Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 9, 12, and 14-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al. [US 2002/0144076 A1] (hereinafter "Yamamoto"), in further view of McBrearty et al. [US 6526492 B1] (hereinafter "McBrearty").

It is noted with appreciation that claim 3 is deemed to recite allowable subject matter.

The subject matter of claim 3 has been incorporated in each of the independent claims. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of the claims is believed to be overcome.

The claims as originally filed recited "storage area." In the last response, the claims were amended to recite "logical volumes" in place of "storage area." The claims as currently amended restore the originally recited "storage area" in place of "logical volumes." No new matter has been added by reverting back to the original language of "storage area."

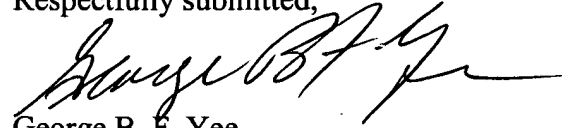
As to the Section 112 rejection, claims 9, 14, and 15 have been amended. In claims 9 and 15, "another virtualization apparatus" has been replaced with "a first virtualization apparatus." Accordingly, references to "the other virtualization apparatus" have been amended to "the first virtualization apparatus." In claim 14, "a first storage area" is recited, and "another storage area" has been amended to read "a second storage area." The Section 112 rejection is believed to be overcome.

Appl. No. 10/735,155  
Amdt. sent September 11, 2006  
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 Expedited Procedure  
Examining Group 2189

PATENT

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this  
Application remain in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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